

Torrance, California
January 12, 1943

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, January 12, 1943 at 7:45 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Hallanger called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the minutes of a Regular Meeting held December 22, 1942 and of an Adjourned Regular Meeting held December 30, 1942 be approved as written. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

All those present in the Council Chamber Saluted the Flag!

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A communication was read from C. C. Tolson, applying for a military leave of absence from his duties with the Torrance Police Department for the duration of the war.

Councilman Babcock moved that C. C. Tolson be granted a military leave of absence from his duties with the Torrance Police Department for the duration of the war. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from S. A. Robinette, D.S.M., applying for permission to establish a cat and dog hospital at 2169 Torrance Boulevard.

Councilman Powell moved that the City Council go on record as disapproving the establishment of a cat and dog hospital in the locality mentioned by Mr. Robinette. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Selective Service System, Selective Service Board No. 280, Torrance, signed by Carl D. Steele, Chairman, requesting that the Civic Auditorium be made available and opened for the benefit of the public on days of inductions, the Selective Service Board to notify the Custodian in charge of the building in advance of Inductions in order that he may open the building.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request submitted by Carl D. Steele, Chairman, Selective Service Board No. 280, Torrance, that the Civic Auditorium be made available and opened for the benefit of the public on days of Inductions be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, submitting a list of twenty (20) boulevard stop signs with the recommendation that those listed be removed, but that the ordinance or ordinances pertaining to original placing thereof be retained, this action being designed to assist motorists in getting the maximum mileage from their gasoline ration.

A short discussion followed about advisability of covering the "Stop" sign with a "Slow" sign, which would eliminate necessity of removing the posts.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the recommendation of John H. Stroh, Chief of Police, that twenty (20) boulevard stop signs, locations of same being listed in the communication from Chief Stroh, be removed, and that the ordinance or ordinances pertaining to original placing thereof be retained, be complied with. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from C. F. Crawford, requesting permission to transfer his poolroom from 1406 Cravens Avenue to 1515 Cabrillo Avenue. Clerk Hallanger reported that Chief Stroh has approved the transfer. Chief Stroh advised he has approved the transfer on condition that Mr. Crawford agrees not to install card tables.

Councilman Cucci moved that the request of C. F. Crawford for permission to transfer his poolroom from 1406 Cravens Avenue to 1515 Cabrillo Avenue be granted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, advising that members of the Civil Service Board are both willing and anxious to meet with the City Council for discussion of the request of Engineer Jain, which request was read at the December 22, 1942 meeting, that Power Equipment Operators be allowed a higher salary.

Friday, January 15, 1943, 7:30 P.M., was agreed upon as a suitable date for holding a meeting with the Civil Service Board for discussion of Engineer Jain's request that Power Equipment Operators be allowed a higher salary, members of the Civil Service Board to be notified of the date of meeting.

A communication was read from Robert B. Roberts, Member, City of Torrance Civil Service Board, advising that his term of office on the five-man Civil Service Board appointed in connection with Ordinance No. 326 will expire January 15, 1943, and advising that it will be impossible for him to again serve on the Board, and also submitting his resignation from the three-man Civil Service Board appointed in connection with Ordinance No. 249, effective January 15, 1943.

Councilman Powell moved that the resignation of Robert B. Roberts from the three-man Civil Service Board appointed in connection with Ordinance No. 249, effective January 15, 1943, be accepted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that the City Clerk be instructed to direct a letter of appreciation to Mr. Roberts for his years of faithful and meritorious service as a member of the Civil Service Board appointed in connection with Ordinance No. 326 and as a member of the Civil Service Board appointed in connection with Ordinance No. 249. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, requesting that temporary employment of Albert H. Koehler and John S. Tolson as Street Department employees, and temporary employment of John Jones as a Park Department employee be authorized.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Engineer Jain be authorized to employ Albert H. Koehler and John S. Tolson, on a temporary basis, as Street Department employees, and John Jones, on a temporary basis, as a Park Department employee. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the City of Torrance Civil Service Board, submitting answers to questions referred to the Board recently by the City Council, the questions, and answers being as follows: Q. Can an employee arbitrarily take a higher position on a temporary basis and return to his old permanent rating at a later date? A. An employee advancing to a higher position on a temporary basis would retain all his past seniority, as well as his previous rating, therefore he could return to his old position at a later date. Q. When an employee is advanced from one position to a higher position for which his qualifications fit him, is Council action necessary to advance him to the salary paid in the higher position, or does his salary automatically increase with his advancement in position? A. An employee must start at the lowest pay scale provided for the new position and be advanced after serving the six months probationary period; but no action on the part of the Council is necessary.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication be filed as a matter of record. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Union Oil Company of California, reporting that no pipe lines or conduits were constructed in the City of Torrance, and no permits to place pipe lines or conduits were issued by said Company for the six months' period ending December 31, 1942 by virtue of Franchise Ordinance No. 1010 (N. S.) Matter of record.

A communication was read from the Richfield Oil Corporation, advising that no pipe lines were laid, removed or abandoned in place by Richfield Oil Corporation during the period from July 1 to December 31, 1942, both inclusive, by virtue of Los Angeles County Franchise Ordinance No. 1358-1361 (N.S.) now within the limits of the City of Torrance and City of Torrance Franchise Ordinance No. 92. Matter of record.

A communication was read from Glenn M. Jain, City Engineer, stating that there are two major construction jobs in progress within the City for which the Building Department has been unable to collect permit fees. The two construction jobs in question are (1) an extension to the Foundry Building of the National Supply Company, located within the property of said Company; and according to the Contractor, Mr. G. P. Kristenson, is being erected upon a small parcel of land leased from the National Supply Company by the United States Government. Permit fee in this instance would be \$40.00. (2) Machine Shop being constructed by C. L. Peck, Contractor, on the National Supply Company's property located north of 213th Street. Permit fee in this instance would be \$165.00.

Engineer Jain stated that the contractors had refuse payment of the permit fees, claiming that the U.S. Engineers office has advised them not to take out a contractor's license or a building permit with the City for the reason that they did not wish to establish a precedent on this type of work, and that they come under a clause of the State Contractors' law which exempts Federal projects from being held for either a contractor's license or a building permit.

Engineer Jain stated that the contractor on project two had taken a City contractor's license. Mr. Jain advised, verbally, that since

the letter was written, Mr. Kristenson, contractor on job one, had today paid City contractor's license under protest, but that both contractors still refuse payment of the building permit fees.

Engineer Jain, Attorney McCall, and the Council discussed this matter in detail, Attorney McCall stating that he was of the opinion that the contractors should pay the permit fees. This subject, he stated, had been presented for discussion before the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers in New York City, and that it was the general opinion of the City Attorneys that projects of this type should require both contractor's licenses and building permits of the contractor.

Mr. Jain cited a section of the Code of the Contractors' State License Board, entitled "exemptions" which states that "This chapter does not apply to any construction, alteration, improvement or repair carried on within the limits and boundaries of any site or reservation the title of which rests in the Federal Government." Engineer Jain pointed out that, inasmuch as the land upon which the buildings are being erected is leased from the National Supply Company, title does not rest in the Federal Government, and therefore, the contractor cannot claim exemption from payment of permit fees on the strength of this section of the Code.

Attorney McCall pointed out that, in all instances where contractors on Federal jobs have claimed exemption from payment of contractors licenses and permit fees, no authority has been cited by them upon which to base their claim to exemption.

Councilman Cucci moved that City Attorney McCall and Engineer Jain be authorized to take whatever steps are necessary to collect building permit fees from (1) G. P. Kristenson, contractor, working on an extension to the Foundry Building of the National Supply Company and (2) C. L. Peck, contractor, constructing a Machine Shop on National Supply Company property located north of 213th Street, and to report results at the next regular meeting. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from Pat MacDonnell, Housing Coordinator, outlining a plan of utilizing existing facilities to provide a maximum measure of war housing. It was stated that the Federal Government, through the National Housing Agency, is requesting that property owners having structures which can be converted to income residential uses within easy access to war industries, submit same for lease and conversion, lease to run for the duration of the war and for a period thereafter determined by the provisions of the lease.

The entire plan was outlined in detail regarding payment of rental by the government, payment of operating expenses, remodeling of the buildings, etc.

It was stated that several properties in the City of Torrance have been submitted and, in many instances, the problem of zoning has been confronted, since the Government will not consider any property in zones which prohibit income residential uses, nor will participate in any activity designed to change or interfere with principles of City Planning, as may be indicated in existing ordinances.

It was requested that the City Council request the Planning Commission of the City of Torrance to make a special study of the situation, with the view of arriving at some form of recommendation which will enable the City to abide by the principles of good City Planning, and at the same time give its full measure of cooperation toward our Nation's War Effort by providing sufficient areas within the City to meet the housing needs of existing and future industrial population.

In connection with this matter, a communication was read from Fred E. Wilson, seeking some relief from zoning restrictions which prevent him from leasing his house at 1866 West 166th Street to the National Housing Agency for use by the Government in the Government Housing program, inasmuch as the house is located in an A-1 zone which prohibits multiple family housing.

Councilman Babcock moved that the communication from Pat MacDonnell, Housing Coordinator, (in which Mr. MacDonnell requested the Council to have the Planning Commission of the City of Torrance make a special study of the zoning ordinance with the view of arriving at some form of recommendation which will enable the City to abide by the principles of good City Planning, and at the same time give its full measure of cooperation toward the Nation's War Effort by providing sufficient areas within the City to meet the housing needs of existing and future industrial population), be referred to the Planning Commission for thorough study and report at the next regular meeting. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock asked what had been done regarding Mr. MacDonnell's suggestion to the Planning Commission that the City employ a competent architect to draw plans for a model structure which will conform to all Government regulations and which can be used in the City of Torrance in providing housing for war workers.

Engineer Jain was instructed to contact Mr. MacDonnell relative to this matter.

A communication was read from Mr. W. H. Stanger, Manager, Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, relative to Victory Gardens. It was suggested by Mr. Stanger that a plan be put into operation whereby a properly supervised garden project be started to provide fresh vegetables to citizens of the community.

Councilman Babcock moved that Mr. Stanger and Mr. Dale Riley make a thorough study of the possibility of providing fresh vegetables for the citizens of the community through a supervised garden project, or whatever other method may be deemed feasible, a report to be made at the next regular meeting. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A communication was read from the Torrance Municipal Water District No. 1, advising that Preference Rating Order P-46, by which Order the Water Department is governed in purchasing materials, was amended October 10, 1942 making it necessary for the Water Department to reduce its stock to sixty percent of the amount on hand in the year 1940, the surplus materials to be sold to anyone with a rating high enough to purchase it.

Clerk Hallanger presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1555

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THE
SALE OF SURPLUS MATERIALS OF THE
TORRANCE MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 1.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1555 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Hallanger presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1556

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING CONTRACT WITH THE B. F. GOODRICH COMPANY FOR TIRES AND TIRE SERVICE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1556 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Hallanger presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1557

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING SETTLE-
MENT COVERING LIQUIDATION OF INDEBTED-
NESS OF 1915 ACT DISTRICTS.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1557 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Hallanger presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1558

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE
SALE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PRO-
PERTY BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1558 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Hallanger presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1559

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF TORRANCE ACCEPTING TRUSTEE'S
DEED COVERING CERTAIN TAX-DEEDED PRO-
PERTIES IN SAID CITY OF TORRANCE AND
AUTHORIZING RECORDING OF SAME.

Resolution pertaining to Lot 6, Block 304, Tract 1952 and a portion of Lot S of Tract 1952.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1559 be adopted. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication was read from the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company, offering \$150.00 for Lot 6, Block 304, Tract 1952, and a portion of Lot S of Tract 1952. A check in the amount of \$15.00 was enclosed, representing 10% of the amount bid.

It was requested that, if the Company is successful in acquiring the property, the deed be issued to the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company, 560 South Main Street, Los Angeles, California.

Mayor McGuire invited bids from anyone interested in purchasing Lot 6, Block 304, Tract 1952 and a portion of Lot S of Tract 1952. No response was forthcoming.

Clerk Hallanger presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1560

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING THE
SALE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF REAL PRO-
PERTY BY THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Babcock moved that Resolution No. 1560 be adopted. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

A communication which was read at the meeting of December 22, 1942 and referred to Attorney McCall and Chief Stroh for investigation and report, at which time Mr. Earle E. Palmer stated that a boarding house for wards of the Juvenile Court is being conducted in North Torrance in a house owned by Henry Dever, City Employee, was again presented.

Attorney McCall reported he has discussed the matter with Mr. Pellets of the Juvenile Court, and expects a report from the Juvenile Court in the near future. He stated that he had been informed that the wards are children of broken homes and not delinquent children.

Mr. Palmer addressed the Council again at this time, stressing the urgency of removing the children from the neighborhood, and requesting the Council to prevail upon Mr. Dever to remove the renters from the house.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Mr. Henry Dever, City Employee, be requested to appear before the City Council Friday evening, January 15, 1943 at 7:30 P.M. for the purpose of discussing the matter complained of by North Torrance residents that a person or persons are operating a boarding house for wards of the Juvenile Court in a house owned by Henry Dever in North Torrance. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

A report of the activities of the Torrance Police Department for the entire year 1942 was read in full.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$59.23 be made for 2500 sets 3-part snapout official receipts for the City Court, to be purchased from Schwabacher-Frey Company. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell moved that an appropriation of not to exceed \$93.00, plus tax, be made for 6 spanner wrenches, 6 helmets, 6 pair rubber boots, 1 pike pole, for the Fire Department. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Powell read a prepared statement pertaining to Post-War Planning and moved that the City Council meet in the near future for the purpose of establishing a Committee for Post-War Planning. Councilman Cucci seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Cucci requested that a tree located on the Southwest corner of 218th Street and Gramercy Avenue be removed, advising that, upon request, he had viewed the tree and is of the opinion it should be removed and replaced with another type of tree.

This matter was referred to the Street Department.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Attorney, by whatever method is necessary, repeal Section 52 of Ordinance No. 235 and draft an ordinance to establish a license fee of \$6.00 per annum for 1¢ vending machines and \$12.00 per annum for 5¢ vending machines. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously. City Attorney McCall suggested that the entire business license Ordinance, No. 235, be revised, as there are many conflicting paragraphs and sections therein.

Councilman Cucci moved that the City Attorney be authorized to draft an ordinance as requested by the Southern California Gas Company to prohibit the turning on or connection of gas services on any premises where gas service is not at the time being rendered, except by a person authorized so to do. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the temporary employment of Irwin Rudolph, at a salary of \$155.00 per month, as a Power Equipment Operator, Street Department, effective January 11, 1943, be authorized, and that the temporary employment of Herman Pickett, at a salary of \$200.00 per month, as a mechanic at the City Garage, effective January 5, 1943, be authorized. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Councilman Babcock moved that an appropriation of \$56.29, plus tax, be made for one Eaton Differential Assembly for #101 Bus. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Cucci, Hitchcock, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Mayor McGuire announced that he had received a telephone call from Mrs. R. R. Smith, Chairman of the Torrance Chapter, American Red Cross, requesting that the City Council go on record as requesting the Army and Navy E for the Torrance Chapter American Red Cross.

Mayor McGuire commended the Torrance Chapter American Red Cross for the splendid service it has and is rendering, mentioning in particular the Blood Donor Service conducted by the Chapter.

Mayor McGuire moved that the City Attorney be authorized to draft a resolution directed to the Director of the American Red Cross, Los Angeles, requesting the Army and Navy E for the Torrance Chapter American Red Cross. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Note: Information furnished by Mayor McGuire January 13, 1943: Direct Resolution to William T. Sesnon, Jr., Los Angeles Chapter American Red Cross, 1200 South Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles.

Mayor McGuire announced that the Rationing Board has requested use of the counter now installed in the Administration Building, but which is not now in use, due to the fact that the building has been converted entirely into a Control Room for Civilian Defense purposes.

He stated also that Engineer Jain, upon recommendation of Lt. Clifford, has requested permission to use the surplus plyboard, purchased during the Christmas season for use of the Recreation Department, to partition the telephone positions in the Control Room, purpose being to eliminate as much noise as possible when telephone operators are called upon to work at the Control Room, thereby facilitating their work greatly. Mr. Dale Riley advised that there is on hand four or five hundred board feet of the plyboard, and heartily recommended its use for the above-mentioned purpose.

Deputy City Clerk Hallanger suggested that, if the counter from the Administration Building is loaned to the Rationing Board, a lease or loan agreement, with no monetary consideration, be drawn up in order that the City may retain ownership of the item. He cited the case of the local American Legion whereby the organization loaned a valuable kitchen range to a Government office and is unable to regain it, inasmuch as a verbal agreement was entered into at the time the loan was made, no record existing as to ownership of the range.

Mayor McGuire expressed appreciation for Mr. Hallanger's suggestion, and stated that this procedure will be followed. He suggested also that the Municipal Water District No. 1 be assured of the return of steel files loaned to the Rationing Board by drawing up a lease or loan agreement.

